

Dear Sir

May 21 1778

I will not again be so long silent, indeed your repeated kind favours call upon me for acknowledgment, they have afforded both to me, and my friends a very agreeable entertainment, and I esteem myself much obliged that you not only so kindly endeavour to supply the loss of your company, but to relieve the many solitary hours which you well know must fall to my share in the absence of a nearer connexion; unattended by the former alluring circumstances of hearing weekly from him; I begin anxiously to expect some intelligence, and every vessel which arrives hits my heart upon the wing, the first news I have, whether fortunate or adverse I shall immediately communicate to you, knowing how zealously you interest yourself in my welfare and happiness, as well as the regard you profess towards our Friend

I thank you Sir for the entertainment afforded me by the communication of the Duke of Michmonds Speech it is the most agreeable to American principles & sentiments of any thing which has reached us from the other side the water - his Lordship appears to possess some portion of that treasure which a great Authority tells us excaltes a nation, & peradventure there were ten little his Lordships in that unhappy Island, I should still hope for a revolution in favour of the virtuous few -

Hairston in his Oceana has some observation which are very applicable to the present state of Britain " Rome says he, was never ruined till her balance being broken, the probability for losing their ancient virtue, abandoned themselves to their Lusts, and the Senators, who as in the case of Jugurtha, were all bribed, turned knaves, at which turn all their skill in government could not keep the commonwealth from overturning - She had sprung her plank & spilt her ballast, the world could not save her "

If we look to that period in History we shall find that neither the eloquence of Cicero, the stern virtue of Cato nor the prowess of Brutus & Cassius, could stem the torrent of vice or save a people who were sunk into every excess of debauchery, grown wicked & effeminate, having entirely lost that purity of morals and that love of liberty which had acquired them immortal fame and glory - Was not Britain arrived to the the same period, and will not her Ciceros & Catos plead in vain?

Congress have acquired much honour by their late firm & spirited measures - if the Haughty Tyrant means peace, " Bid him disband his Legions "

" Restore the Empire its lost Liberty "

" Submit his actions to the publick censure "

" And stand the judgment of an unbribed Senate "

But now we see him, black

" with Murder treason Sacrilege and crimes "

" That strike our souls with Horror but to name them "

May 29

Some days have pass'd since I found time to write a line; when in the beginning of this letter I promised to communicate you the first intelligence I obtained, I flatter myself with the hopes that it would not have been of so disagreeable a nature as the capture of the Boston; - Many very many melancholly Ideas haunt my imagination upon this occasion, the account of it is in the every where paper which mentions as I am told the ^{capture of the} ship which took her, and that she was carried into Portsmouth, the report here gains full credit, I have some faint hopes that she was not captured till after she had landed my best friend - a few days I hope will make the matter certain, for a disagreeable certainty is preferable to a painful suspense - My friends endeavour to console me even supposing so mortifying an event has taken place, with the hopes that he may in the hands of providence be rendered as serviceable to his Country even in captivity, as he might have been in the honorable most assigned him; - I own it has damp't my hopes, & I believe the publick expectations but the situation of affairs are such that I think I have not that occasion for anxiety which I should have had if such an event had taken place ten months ago the publick who have sequestered him to their service will I hope take an honorable care of him -

I have the pleasure to inform you that four of your sisters are happily through the small pox & the eldest like to do well. she did not go in with the first clap, in this town it has been breaking out in the natural way for more than a month, the people not being able to get a vote for a Hospital, were in a rage, and began to inoculate in their own Houses, the whole towns become a Hospital, not one family but inoculated in their houses - and in consequence of that the town gave leave for a number of houses to be taken up, and this grants me with their minister almost all under inoculation, they will begin in Weymouth every week, when my father is determined to take it -

on none of your letters have you told me a word about your situation, are you in an agreeable family now do you do? are you more reconciled to your town? is General M - a member of Congress, now is the Army new modelled, where is Dr - M - h - present my compliments to General Robeson and family for whom I have a great respect - our Great Man designs soon for - C - is it has been for more than a month, tomorrow to morrow & to morrow - was there ever any thing decisive in him?

Continue to write me by every opportunity, you well know
the pleasure I always take in hearing from my friends, and
among that number I have long numbered my correspondent
who may be assured that he will ever find me in his

affectionate Cousin

Portia

M^r. Adams
21. May 1773.

John Thaxter Esq^r

In York Town

Pennsylvania